

## **Excerpt from Deception Pass State Park Management Plan**

### **Park Mission and Objectives**

(including the main contiguous park holdings on both sides of Deception and Canoe Passes, as well as Hope, Skagit, Big and Little Deadman, Ben Ure, Strawberry, Pass, Deception and Northwest Islands.)

**Park Mission:** Deception Pass State Park is a place of striking beauty and vitality, offering a tableau of natural forests, rocky shorelines, architectural and engineering masterpieces, churning water, and expansive vistas. Millions of visitors come to the park each year to engage in an extraordinary range of active and passive recreational and educational pursuits. It is Deception Pass State Park's mission to nurture those critical landscapes that form the basis for the park's attraction as well as its importance as a place of outstanding natural and cultural resources.

**Park Objectives:** The Park Mission will be advanced by:

**Recreation:** Providing for a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities including utility, standard, primitive, and group camping; trails for equestrians, bicyclists and pedestrians; swimming; beach strolling; picnicking; boating, including power boating, sailing, kayaking, and canoeing; fishing; wildlife viewing; mushroom and berry harvesting; rock climbing; orienteering; interpretive activities; and a variety of group activities.

**Natural Resources:** Protecting, preserving, and interpreting natural resources of the park, including rare, fragile and/or high quality examples of vegetative communities, associations and species; important fish and wildlife corridors and habitat areas; geologic formations related to glacial, tidal, volcanism and erosion influences; and by ensuring that park use does not adversely affect water quality and/or impede natural flow.

**Cultural Resources:** Protecting, preserving, and interpreting, where appropriate, key cultural resources of the park, including Native American archaeological and cultural sites; and historic properties embracing construction of the Deception Pass and Canoe Pass bridges, the Civilian Conservation Corps park design and developments, 20th Century military fortifications, 19th and early 20th Century agricultural properties, and 18th Century European exploration.

**Interpretation and Environmental Education:** Combining the resources and skills of Washington State Parks with local and statewide organizations and individuals specializing in resource education and interpretation, to expand programs and facilities for individuals and/or groups that use Deception Pass State Park as a major destination for environmental education and interpretation.

**Park Enterprise:** Enhancing public services via revenue generating programs and projects that heighten the park experience for visitors, minimally impact park natural and cultural landscapes, and serve to increase park-generated income and thereby upgrade park fiscal capacity. Such enterprise efforts may include commercial facilities and programs, and off-site advertising.

**Volunteers:** Recruiting and managing a volunteer corps of park neighbors, recreational users, resource stewards, and all other interested organizations or individuals, to assist park staff in park programs and activities.

**Park Boundary: Identifying** a long-term boundary and property management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, surplus, easements, and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby resource managers and park neighbors.

**Relationship to Regional Community:** Recognizing the park's importance in the economic and social life of the North Whidbey-Fidalgo Island region, and actively participating in regional planning efforts that potentially affect and/or address park resources, the experience of park users, and the impacts of the park on the greater region.